whether it has also been established that gas hydrate reserves are present in Krishna-Godavari-Mahanadi Basin, and in Andaman Islands;

if so, whether gas hydrates have been found in permafrost in Arctic Regions;

if so, what are the concrete action plan and programme prepared in this regard; and

to what extent Government has been able to explore gas hydrates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHR1 DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes. Sir During the National Gas Hydrates Programme (NGHP) expedition 01, substantial amount of Gas Hydrates were discovered in KG basin. Gas Hydrate occurrence has also been observed in Mahanadi and Andaman Offshore areas. However, the detailed studies are to be carried out to estimate the gas hydrate reserves. Gas Hydrates are also found in permafrost area in arctic regions.

(d) and (e) Under NGHP, the Government's action plan is as follows:

(i) Resource estimation of already discovered gas hydrate.

(ii) Identification of Gas Hydrate bearing sand dominated reservoir.

(iii) Carrying out pilot production testing.

(iv) R&D for commercial exploitation of methane from Gas Hydrate.

LPG dealers in the country

†3810. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

the number of LPG dealers during the last three years and as on date company-wise and State-wise;

the details of gas cylinders distributed by the above dealers during the last three years and as on date, company-wise, State-wise and year-wise;

whether it is a fact that requisite increase has not taken place in production of LPG during the last few years;

if so, the details thereof; and

the action plan of Government to increase availability of LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that they are having 9270,9363 & 9365 Number of LPG distributorships in the country as on 1.4.2006, 1.4.2007 and 1.4.2008 respectively.

The Company-wise and State-wise details are available with Directors (Marketing) of the concerned OMCs.

(b) OMCs have reported that they have supplied 9610,9987 and 10587 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT) domestic LPG during the years 2005-06, 2006-07 & 2007-08 respectively.

The Company-wise and State-wise details are available with Directors (Marketing) of the concerned OMCs.

(c) to (e) OMCs have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

At present the indigenous production of LPG is inadequate to meet domestic requirements. The domestic LPG production in 2007-08 was 8829 TMT. The shortfall in availability is met through imports.

OMCs have also reported that domestic LPG production is expected to increase to 12.8 million metric tonnes by the end of Xlth Five-year Plan with the completion of their various on-going upgradation and expansion projects in their existing refineries as well as commissioning of new refineries.

Selling of old oil fields

3811. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether he agrees with reforms option as projected in Economic Survery 2007-08 regarding selling of old oil fields to private sector for application of improved/enhanced Oil Recovery Techniques;

if so, the reason therefor; and

if not, whether the same has been informed to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) There is no proposal with the Government to sell old oil fields to private sector companies for application of Improved/Enhanced Oil Recovery Techniques.

Oil and gas from Turkmenistan

3812. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether India and Turkmenistan recently signed a MoU cooperation in the oil and gas sector;

if so, the details thereof;

whether Turkmenistan will provide gas and oil to India on some conditional basis;

if so, the details thereof; and

to what extent the present position of gas and oil will improve as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Ministry of Oil/Gas Industry and Mineral Resources of Turkmenistan was signed in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on 5th April, 2008, during the visit of Uprashtrapatiji to Turkmenistan. The objective of the MoU is to establish an institutional relationship to develop bilateral cooperation in the field of oil and gas.

(c) to (e) India is pursuing import of natural gas from Turkmenistan through the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline Project. TAPI pipeline is